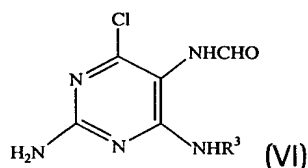


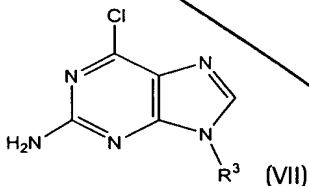
wherein R³ is hydrogen; hydroxyl or a protected hydroxyl; a C₃₋₇ carbocyclic group optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; an acyclic group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, and wherein such acyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom and wherein such C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



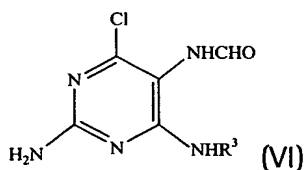
wherein R³ is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

E2
p
L2

18. (Amended four times) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)

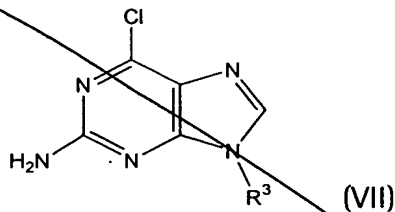


E2
Y2
cont
wherein R^3 is a C₃₋₇ carbocyclic group optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; an acyclic group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, and wherein such acyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; or a C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group, wherein at least one carbon atom is replaced by a N, O, or S atom and wherein such C₄₋₇ heterocyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond, comprising reacting a compound of formula (VI)



wherein R^3 is as defined above, with a trialkylorthoformate in the presence of an aqueous acid.

E3
Amended
13
22. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (VII)



wherein R^3 is [a C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] an acyclic group, wherein carbon atoms may be substituted by one or more heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, and wherein such [C₂₋₈ hydrocarbyl] acyclic group may be optionally substituted with C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, hydroxyl or protected hydroxyl, azido, phosphonyl, or halogen; provided that such groups are not attached by a glycosidic bond,